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## ANTHROPOLOGIC MISCELLANEA

**Study of Philippine Languages at Johns Hopkins University.**—The native languages of the Philippines fall into two general divisions: (1) the languages of the diminutive, dark-skinned Negritos who live in scattered tribes in the interior mountain regions of the larger islands, and who probably constitute the remnant of the aboriginal population of the islands; (2) the languages of the various Malay tribes, Christian, Mohammedan, and Pagan, which occupy by far the greater part of the archipelago.

About the idioms of the Negritos very little is known, and that little seems to indicate that they are very similar to the Malay dialects. This similarity, however, is perhaps to be explained as due to the influence of the languages of the surrounding Malay tribes, especially as, according to Spanish authorities, the Negrito languages are of monosyllabic structure and entirely different from the languages of the Malays.

The idioms of the Malay tribes form a closely connected group of tongues, constituting a branch of the Malayo-Polynesian family, which comprises within its limits the Kanaka of Hawaii, the Maori of New Zealand, the languages of the head-hunting Dyaks of Borneo, of the Malays of the China seas, and of the Hovas of Madagascar. The estimates of the number of the Malay dialects range from about twenty to over fifty, but of some of these practically nothing is known save the name. The best known of the Philippine tongues are naturally the languages of the more or less civilized natives, the Christian tribes in the north, and the Mohammedan tribes in the south. The principal languages of the Christian tribes are the Ibanag, Ilocano, Pampango, Pangasinan, Tagalog, and Bikol of Luzon, and the Visayan of the Visayan islands; those of the Mohammedan tribes are the Sulu of the Sulu sub-archipelago and the Maguindanao of Mindanao.

All of these languages are made up principally from dissyllabic roots and are practically non-inflectional; an extensive use, however, is made of reduplication in the formative processes of both noun and verb. Verbal force is conferred by certain particles which are combined with the root, though there is no sharp distinction between the construction of nominal and verbal forms. The character of the verbal form to be used in a sentence depends on what element is of most im-

portance in the mind of the speaker or writer. This element is made the subject and the verb is conformed to the character of this subject, standing in different forms, according as the subject is the agent, the object, the cause, the place, etc., of the action. The verb stands in the active voice only when the agent is the subject; in all other cases it is in the passive. Passive constructions are far more numerous than active; in fact they are the regular rule, and the active the exception. Modifying words are usually joined to the words they modify by connective particles which are identical with the relative pronouns.

The vocabularies of the Philippine languages contain several foreign elements. The languages of the Christian tribes contain a number of Spanish, those of the Mohammedan tribes a number of Arabic words, especially such as relate to religion. Besides this, however, some of these languages, e. g., Tagalog and Visayan, possess, like Malay, Javanese, etc., a number of Sanskrit words.

The most important of the Philippine languages is the Tagalog, spoken in the capital city of Manila and throughout the middle regions of Luzon; and, as was fitting, the instruction in Philippine languages at Johns Hopkins University began with this idiom. A course in elementary Tagalog was conducted throughout the year of 1901-02, the instruction being made as practical as possible. In the second half-year a series of lectures were given on the Philippine islands, with special reference to the native tribes, their manners, customs, religion, language, etc. These courses were attended by eight students.

Next in importance to Tagalog among the languages of the archipelago stands Visayan, which is spoken, probably, by more people than any other Philippine dialect. In the year 1902-03, at Johns Hopkins University, therefore, instruction in this language is offered, as well as an elementary and a more advanced course in Tagalog.

All courses are given in the Oriental Seminary, of which Prof. Paul Haupt is director, and are under the charge of Dr Frank R. Blake, a graduate of the University and a student of Semitic and Sanskrit.

In connection with the work in Tagalog, Dr Blake has prepared an Elementary Tagalog Grammar for practical purposes, which is now complete, and will probably be published shortly. This Tagalog Grammar will be followed as soon as possible by manuals of Visayan, Sulu, and the principal other Philippine dialects. A special study will also be made of the Sanskrit element in Tagalog and Visayan.

F. R. BLAKE, Ph. D.

**The Primitive "Baby-machine."**—The notice by Dr Otis T. Mason on this subject which I read recently in the *American Anthro-*

*pologist* (vol. iv, No. 2, p. 359) induces me to make the following remarks: This apparatus for teaching infants to walk is also well known all over Java, not only on the coast, but also in the remote mountain districts of the interior. I found it, for example, about five years ago, among the Tenggerese. The Malay popular name for the apparatus is *putë-ran*, from the verb *putar*, or *putër*, "to turn," "to turn around."

A specimen which I obtained from a native of Batavia has a total length of about 67 centimeters. Its general appearance is shown in the accompanying figure. The pointed stick, on which the bamboo shaft is fitted, is driven into the earthen floor, and enables the infant to walk in a circle, leaning upon the horizontal wooden stick, which projects from the bamboo shaft. Strange to say, in some of the best Dutch works on the ethnography of Sumatra and Java, which I perused for the purpose of finding something on the subject, no mention of it is made. It would be worth while to inquire whether the *putë-ran* is found in the Philippines.

H. TEN KATE.

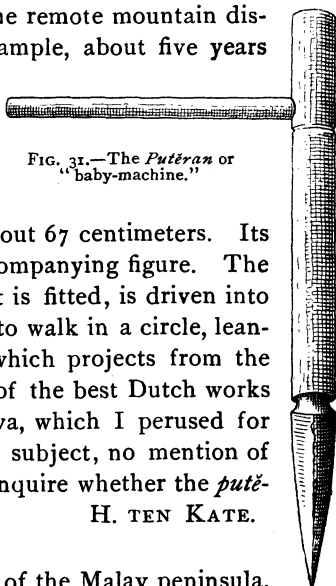


FIG. 31.—The *Putë-ran* or "baby-machine."

**Arrow Poison.**—The arrow poison of the Malay peninsula, together with some of the adjacent parts of the continent, the islands of the archipelago, etc., known as *ipoh*, has been made the subject of a doctor's thesis at the University of Zürich. Dr Paul Geiger's *Beiträge zur Kenntnis der Ipoh-Pfeilgifte* (Berlin, 1901, 102 pp.) is quite exhaustive in its treatment of the topic and related matters, the bibliography titling more than a hundred publications of diverse sorts and values. Since its appearance, however, several other contributions have appeared, among which may be mentioned Dr C. G. Seligmann's *Note on the Preparation and Use of the Kenyah Dart-poison Ipoh* (*Four. Anthr. Inst.*, Lond., 1902, xxxii, 239-244), relating to Borneo, and Dr L. Camus' *Recherches expérimentales sur le poison des Mois* (*Rev. de l'École d'Anthr. de Paris*, 1902, xii, 119-146), dealing with northern Indo-China.

A. F. C.

**"Foreign" Objects in Ohio Valley Mounds.**—Mr Clarence B. Moore calls my attention to the use of the word "foreign" in my review of Mr Fowke's book, published in the last number of the *American Anthropologist* (page 513). In employing the term I meant objects foreign to Ohio,—that is, made of substances not found in Ohio in their natural state. Of course nothing of European origin has been found, so far as I am aware, in the mounds of southern Ohio. Indeed, I have

opened more than a hundred mounds in this section, and all my field observations tend to prove the pre-Columbian origin of the archeological remains of Ohio valley. I thank Mr Moore for calling my attention to the use of the term mentioned, since others may have been led to misinterpret it.

WARREN K. MOOREHEAD.

**Pigment Spots.**—To the evidence cited by H. Newell Wardle (*Anthropologist*, N. S., IV, pp. 412-420) regarding "Mongolian spots," etc., the following passage from Professor Frederick Starr's *Notes upon the Ethnography of Southern Mexico* (pt. 2, 1902, p. 13) should be added: "It is a matter of common belief among mestizos that every Maya has a violet or purple spot on the back at the vortex coccygeus: this is called the *uïts* (bread) and it is a common insult to refer to it,—e. g., to say '*uan ha uïts*.'" The Mayas are probably to be added to the list of peoples exhibiting "pigment spots," and the opinion of ten Kate that such spots are quite common is further confirmed. A. F. C.

**Turmas and Tumas.**—I have read the interesting article by Mr Francis C. Nicholas on "The Aborigines of the Province of Santa Marta," printed in volume III, number 4, of the *American Anthropologist*. At the bottom of page 614 is mentioned *turmas*, with the statement that it is "a word not understood now in the province." I lived with the Aruacos (Aurohuacos) and frequently ate *turmas*. They are potatoes of a very small kind, but of exquisite flavor. Of course it has nothing to do with *tumas*, or red beads found in graves. *Agrocacha*, by the way, is known everywhere under the name of *arracacha* (*Conium esculatum*).

ELISÉE RECLUS.

**Negro Companions of Spanish Explorers.**—In connection with Mr Wright's paper in the *Anthropologist* (N. S., IV, pp. 217-228) it should be mentioned that the vessel of Captain Arellano (a deserter from the expedition of Urdaneta to the Philippines in 1564-65), which was the first to make a return voyage from the western Pacific to Mexico, is said to have been steered by a mulatto pilot. Arellano, according to Blumentritt (*Versuch einer Ethnographie der Philippinen*, p. 63), made this trip in order to win the prize offered by the King of Spain for the first traversing of the South sea from west to east. A. F. C.

**Virchow Bibliography.**—The "Virchow-Bibliographie: 1843-1901" (Berlin, 1901, 182 pages), compiled by various hands and edited by Dr Schwalbe, contains practically all the titles of the publications of the great German anthropologist. The first section (pages 1-50) is

devoted to Medicine, Hygiene, and General Science; the second part (pages 51-182) to Anthropology, Ethnology, and Prehistory.

A. F. C.

MR HARLAN I. SMITH'S "Shell-heaps of the Lower Fraser, British Columbia," which will appear in volume IV of the *Memoirs* of the American Museum of Natural History, is in press. This quarto deals with the vast shell deposits of the northwest coast of America, and endeavors to reconstruct from the remains found in these accumulations of the refuse of extinct villages the story of the prehistoric peoples, their culture, and condition as they must have existed in ancient time. The contribution will be illustrated by 120 figures of these antiquities and views of the excavations made in the shell-heaps.

JAPANESE ARCHEOLOGICAL EXPEDITION.—An archeological expedition, composed of seven Japanese, has recently started for central Asia, under the leadership of Count Otani Kozui and Mr Watanabe Tetsushin, says *Nature*. The object of the expedition is to search for the Buddhistic remains in central Asia, India, and China, and to trace, so far as is possible, the course of Buddhism from its source northward and eastward to Japan.

MR W. H. HOLMES, Head Curator of the Department of Anthropology of the United States National Museum, has been appointed Chief of the Bureau of American Ethnology of the Smithsonian Institution to succeed Major J. W. Powell, late Director of the Bureau. Prof. Otis T. Mason, for many years Curator of the Division of Ethnology, has been made Acting Head Curator of the Department of Anthropology in the Museum.

DR GEORGE GRANT MACCURDY has been reappointed Lecturer in Anthropology and Curator of the Anthropological Collection in Yale University. The course in Anthropology is open only to graduate students, five of whom are pursuing it. A course in Prehistoric Anthropology will be offered during the second half-year, and it is expected to be more largely attended than the present one.

FREIHERR E. VON TRÖLTSCHE, whose investigations in the early history of Württemberg are highly regarded, died June 29th at the age of seventy-three years.

DR A. F. CHAMBERLAIN of Clark University and Dr A. S. Gatschet of the Bureau of American Ethnology have been elected to membership in the American Antiquarian Society.